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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,339	11/10/2003	Claude Bissonnette	36263	5167
116	7590	06/23/2005	EXAMINER	
PEARNE & GORDON LLP			KASTLER, SCOTT R	
1801 EAST 9TH STREET			ART UNIT	
SUITE 1200			PAPER NUMBER	
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108			1742	

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/705,339	BISSONNETTE, CLAUDE
	Examiner Scott Kastler	Art Unit 1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/10/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita.

Yamashita teaches an apparatus for cutting comprising a cutting torch (1), means for moving the cutting torch in an arcuate path (10,11) which can be employed to direct the cutting torch continuously at a single point of a billet to be cut, where the means for moving the cutting torch includes an arcuate track (10), a frame (9) supporting the track, and means for moving the torch along the track at a constant rate which includes a linkage system (11) for converting rotational movement of a shaft to the movement of the cutting torch along the track, thereby showing all aspects of the above claims since the manner or method of use of the claimed apparatus (to cut a steel billet by aiming the cutting torch at a single point of the billet) cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 and MPEP 2114.

Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vainer et al. Vainer et al teaches an apparatus for cutting comprising a cutting torch (1), means for moving the cutting torch in an arcuate path (16, 24, 10, 11) which can be employed to direct the cutting torch continuously at a single point of a billet to be cut, where the means for moving the cutting torch includes an arcuate track (24), a frame (9) supporting the track, and means for moving the torch along the track at a constant rate which includes a linkage system (10,11) for converting

rotational movement of a shaft to the movement of the cutting torch along the track, thereby showing all aspects of the above claims since the manner or method of use of the claimed apparatus (to cut a steel billet by aiming the cutting torch at a single point of the billet) cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 and MPEP 2114.

Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roeder. Roeder teaches an apparatus for cutting comprising a cutting torch (52, 56 or 54), means for moving the cutting torch in an arcuate path (50) which can be employed to direct the cutting torch continuously at a single point of a billet to be cut, where the means for moving the cutting torch includes an arcuate track (82), and a frame (68) supporting the track, thereby showing all aspects of the above claims since the manner or method of use of the claimed apparatus (to cut a steel billet by aiming the cutting torch at a single point of the billet) cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 and MPEP 2114.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,786,979 B2. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims allow for the aiming of the cutting flame at a fixed point at the bottom of the strand or billet, as required by the claims of the '979 patent.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,824 B2. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims allow for the aiming of the cutting flame at a fixed point at the bottom of the strand or billet, as required by the claims of the '824 patent.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Scott Kastler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

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